

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950 - 1951

SUBJECT Economic - Construction materials

DATE DIST. 3/ Mar 1951

HOW PUBLISHED Daily and weekly newspapers; weekly periodical

WHERE PUBLISHED USSR

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED Nov 1950 - 14 Feb 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers and periodical as indicated.

USSR HAS LARGE RESERVES  
OF NATURAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS;  
QUARRYING METHODS INADEQUATE

MARBLE OUTPUT INCREASES, BUT STILL INSUFFICIENT -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 9 Feb 51

The USSR marble industry is growing continuously. For example, the Koyelga Marble Mining Administration in the Urals produced 1,500 cubic meters of marble blocks in 1940; the 1950 output was 2,250 cubic meters.

However, the present output is still insufficient to satisfy current needs for marble as a facing material and for electrical engineering equipment. During the period 1951 - 1955, it is planned to increase the quarrying of marble and colored limestone five to six times. For this purpose, it is necessary above all to mechanize labor processes in the quarries. Until now, quarrying and processing of marble blocks is still done by hand in most of the enterprises. New marble-cutting machines were recently designed and constructed. The use of these machines should greatly increase the marble output.

ARMENIAN MARBLE QUARRIES LACK MECHANIZATION -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 18 Jan 51

Armenian marble is considered one of the best types of marble in the USSR, from both a decorative and a technical standpoint. The Yerevan Marble-Processing Plant is equipped with machinery for cutting and polishing marble products and for producing ground marble. Production was stopped during the war and marble quarrying and processing was resumed only in the last 6 months of 1950. During the last few months of 1950, the Yerevan combine exceeded its production plans.

At present, work in the combine's marble quarries is not mechanized. As a result, labor productivity is low and the output of marble blocks is small.

The marble-processing plant of "Armmarmox" (Armenian Marble) Combine is to be reconstructed and expanded during 1951. However, it is not possible to expand the plant in its present location. The Ministry of Construction Materials

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION		SECRET		DISTRIBUTION	
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB			
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI			



**SECRET**

SECRET

50X1-HUM

Industry USSR and the pertinent republic organizations must reconsider the question of rebuilding the old plant. A new marble-processing plant should be built for the purpose of expanding marble production in Armenia. Armenian marble deposits must be used for the great construction projects, including the Kuybyshev, Stalingrad, and Kakhovka hydroelectric power stations.

TO EXPLOIT TURKMEN LIMESTONE, MARBLE -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenkaya Iskra, 14 Feb 51

Construction of large buildings in Ashkhabad and other cities of Turkmenistan requires large quantities of marble and granite. The shipping of these materials from the Armenian and Uzbek republics has considerably increased construction costs. The Council of Ministers Turkmen SSR has given instructions to find ways of utilizing local construction materials, especially facing materials. The first steps taken in this direction disclosed that there are deposits of heavy limestone in many places of Turkmenistan and that this type of limestone is very strong and equal in quality to granite. In addition, marble has been found in the mountains near Ashkhabad; this type of marble is equal in quality and beauty to the marble of Armenia and Uzbekistan.

The quarrying of Turkmenian limestone and marble will supply high-grade materials to construction projects of Ashkhabad and other Turkmenian cities. The current problem is to find the most efficient method of processing these materials. Workers of scientific research institutions, construction materials industry, and construction organizations must cooperate in the speedy organization of large-scale quarrying of limestone and marble and the practical utilization of these materials.

GYPSUM REPLACES MARBLE IN NORTHERN AREAS -- Leningrad, Leningradskaya Pravda, 26 Dec 50

Natural gypsum stone is being used more widely in northern regions as a substitute for marble. The central scientific research laboratory of the stone and gem industry has designed a new machine which makes it possible to speed up the processing of gypsum stone, increase the output of gypsum tiles, and lower production costs.

KARELO-FINNISH SSR SUPPLIES QUARTZITE -- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 9 Jan 51

A valuable construction material, dark-colored quartzite, is quarried and processed near Petrozavodsk, in Kamenny Bor. This stone is easily processed and polished and it has an attractive smooth surface. Kamennoborskiy quartzite is known far beyond the borders of the Karelo-Finnish SSR. Not only dark quartzite, but also other types of stone are processed in Kamenny Bor, brought there from various parts of the republic (including Shoksha rose-colored quartzite, Segozero talc-chlorite, and others).

TUFF CHIEF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL IN ARMENIA -- Ogonek, No 48, Nov 50

New houses in Yerevan are being built mainly of tuff. This construction material is very strong and at the same time easy to cut. Artik tuff can be sawed like wood and the pieces can be nailed. The Armenian reserves of tuff are inexhaustible. The most popular type is rose-colored Artik stone, quarried on the slopes of Aragats Mountain.

- E N D -

- 2 -

SECRET

**SECRET**